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at 4.30 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, at a time of tremendous change in the world, international law must continue to be brought up to date and to develop progressively in order to guide the action of the international community. In this connection, the Sixth Committee was a forum for discussing the legal aspects of problems that arose. In her capacity as Chairman, she undertook to do everything in her power to further the Committee's work, and to that end she asked for the cooperation of the members of the Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. The CHAIRMAN said that she took it the Committee wished to elect Mr. Ali Thani Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. Matthew Neuhaus (Australia) as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Oleksandr F. Motsyk (Ukraine) as Rapporteur.

3. It was so decided.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

4. The CHAIRMAN recalled, with reference to item 149 of the provisional agenda, "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property", the General Assembly had decided in decision 47/414 to re-establish the Committee's open-ended Working Group at its forty-eighth session in accordance with the mandate and methods of work indicated in that decision.

5. She took it that the Committee wished to re-elect Mr. Carlos Calero-Rodrigues (Brazil) as Chairman of the Working Group on the Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property.

6. It was so decided.

7. The CHAIRMAN said, with reference to item 144 of the provisional agenda, "United Nations Decade of International Law", that the General Assembly had in resolution 47/32 requested the relevant Working Group to continue its work at the forty-eighth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work. Since consultations were still being held regarding the chairmanship of the Working Group, the Committee would return to that item later.

8. With regard to item 143 of the provisional agenda, "Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order", the General Assembly had in resolution 46/52 decided to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to develop the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. Since the relevant consultations were still going on, the Committee would deal with the matter at a later stage.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

9. The CHAIRMAN announced that the document relating to the organization of work (A/C.6/48/L.1), which took account of the results of the informal consultations held by the Legal Counsel on 7 September 1993, would be issued early in the week of 27 September 1993. In the meantime, the Committee might adopt a decision on its programme of work for the first week of the session, from 27 September to 1 October 1993, on the basis of the provisional timetable that had been circulated.

10. Mr. HAMAI (Algeria) suggested an amendment to the provisional timetable. In view of its importance and relevance, the item on measures to eliminate international terrorism should be considered at a later stage, in fourth place, after the "Question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice", the new item proposed by New Zealand. The latter item was to be considered at high-level meetings in which heads of State and ministers would participate, and its discussion would necessarily shed a valuable light on the question of international terrorism. Furthermore, a deferment of the latter would allow bilateral and regional consultations to be held.

11. Mr. ADANK (New Zealand) asked for clarification of the Algerian proposal. He explained that many delegations had insisted in informal consultations that the new item should be taken up immediately after the informal meeting of legal advisers scheduled to be held in New York on 24 and 25 October, so that the advisers could be present at its consideration.

12. Mr. HAMAI (Algeria) said that he had no intention of slighting the importance of the question proposed by New Zealand nor of altering the dates set for its consideration; consequently, he suggested that the item on international terrorism should be considered subsequently, after the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fifth session. That would give the Committee in its debate the benefit of the Commission's conclusions, which in the current year would focus primarily on the establishment of an international criminal jurisdiction.

13. Mr. WOOD (United Kingdom) proposed that the Chairman should hold further informal consultations with the delegations concerned and that the Bureau should propose a timetable at the next meeting.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would continue consultations with the delegations concerned and would inform the Committee of the agreed timetable at the following meeting.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN reported that, given the current financial situation of the United Nations, it had been decided to introduce certain measures affecting conference services (A/BUR/48/1). As a result, the Office of Conference Services had assigned each Main Committee a set number of meetings which must necessarily be held on the established dates. She pointed out that a full use of the limited resources available would require considerable flexibility, moderation and good will on the part of all delegations and she was sure that she could count on the cooperation of all in that respect.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.